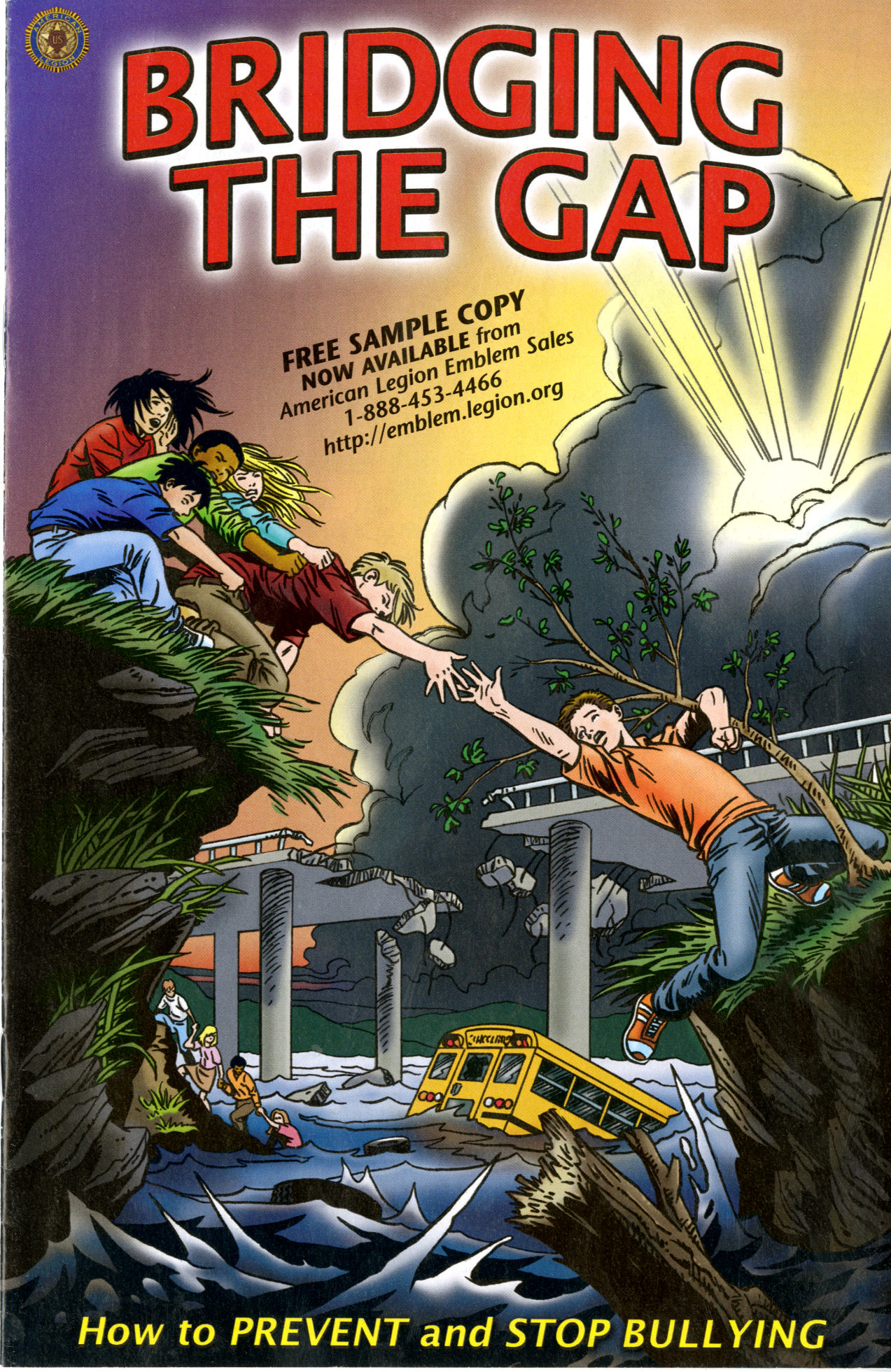
BRIDGING THE GAP



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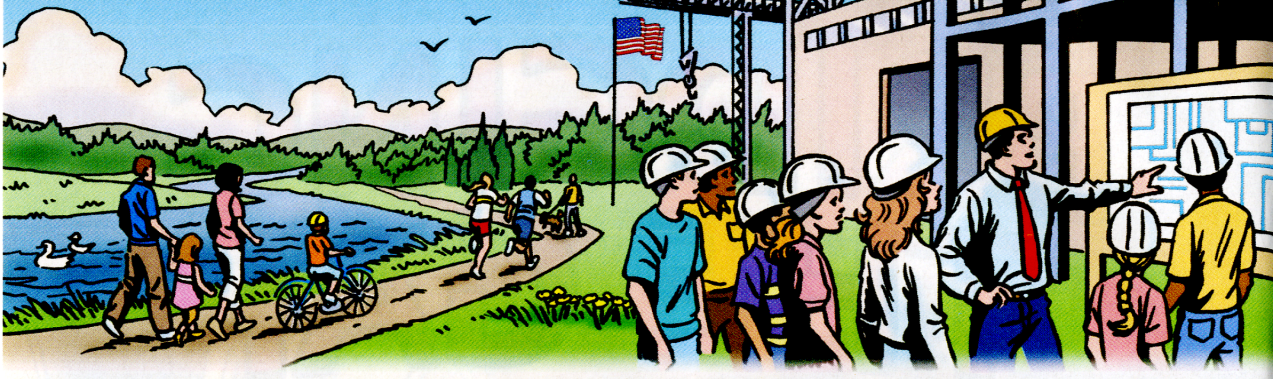
How to PREVENT and STOP BULLYING



Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

These words are part of the **Declaration of Independence**, the proclamation that started the new United States in 1776.

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

These rights are so important they are guaranteed to American citizens and to all people, not by law, but by the Greatest Force in the universe.

Bullies deny people their rights.

A person can't pursue happiness when beaten by a mob of bullies, harassed by an online stalker, or abused by the majority for being different.

So if you ever find yourself bullying - stop! Be the best person you can be!

If someone you know is being a bully - convince them to stop.

If someone you know is being bullied - help them stop the bullying and stand up for their rights.

This comic book story will help you learn to prevent, reduce, and stop bullying.

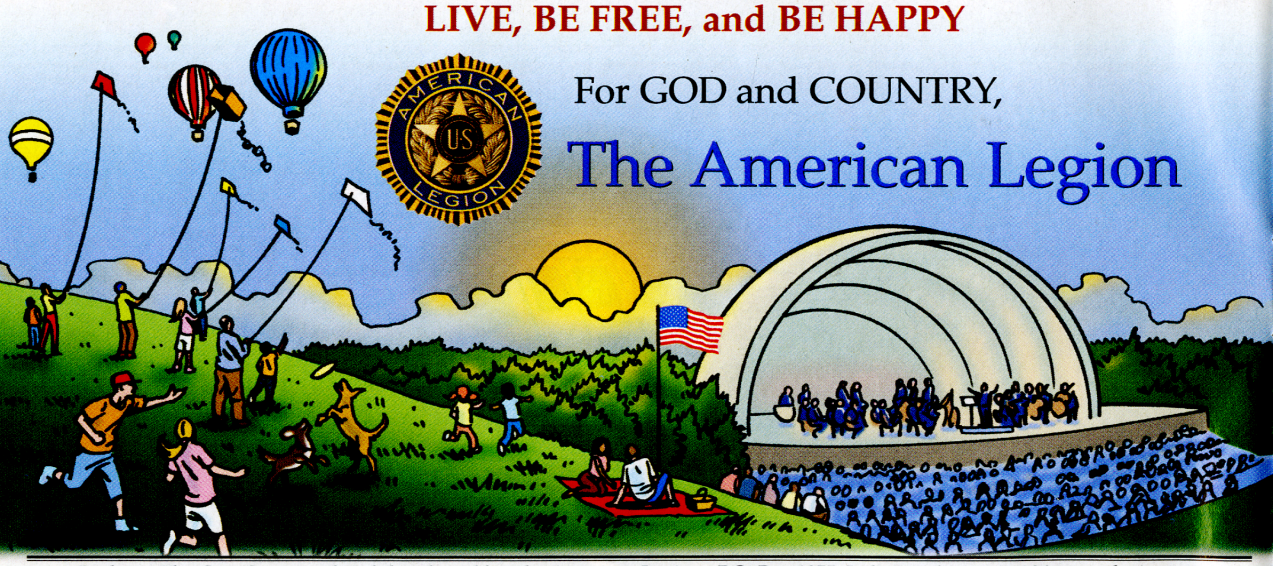
Think of all the freedom you have in America. Be thankful for all the people that worked, sacrificed, and even died to help you have those precious freedoms.

Now it's your job to protect freedom. Stopping bullying is one of the best ways!

LIVE, BE FREE, and BE HAPPY

For GOD and COUNTRY,

The American Legion



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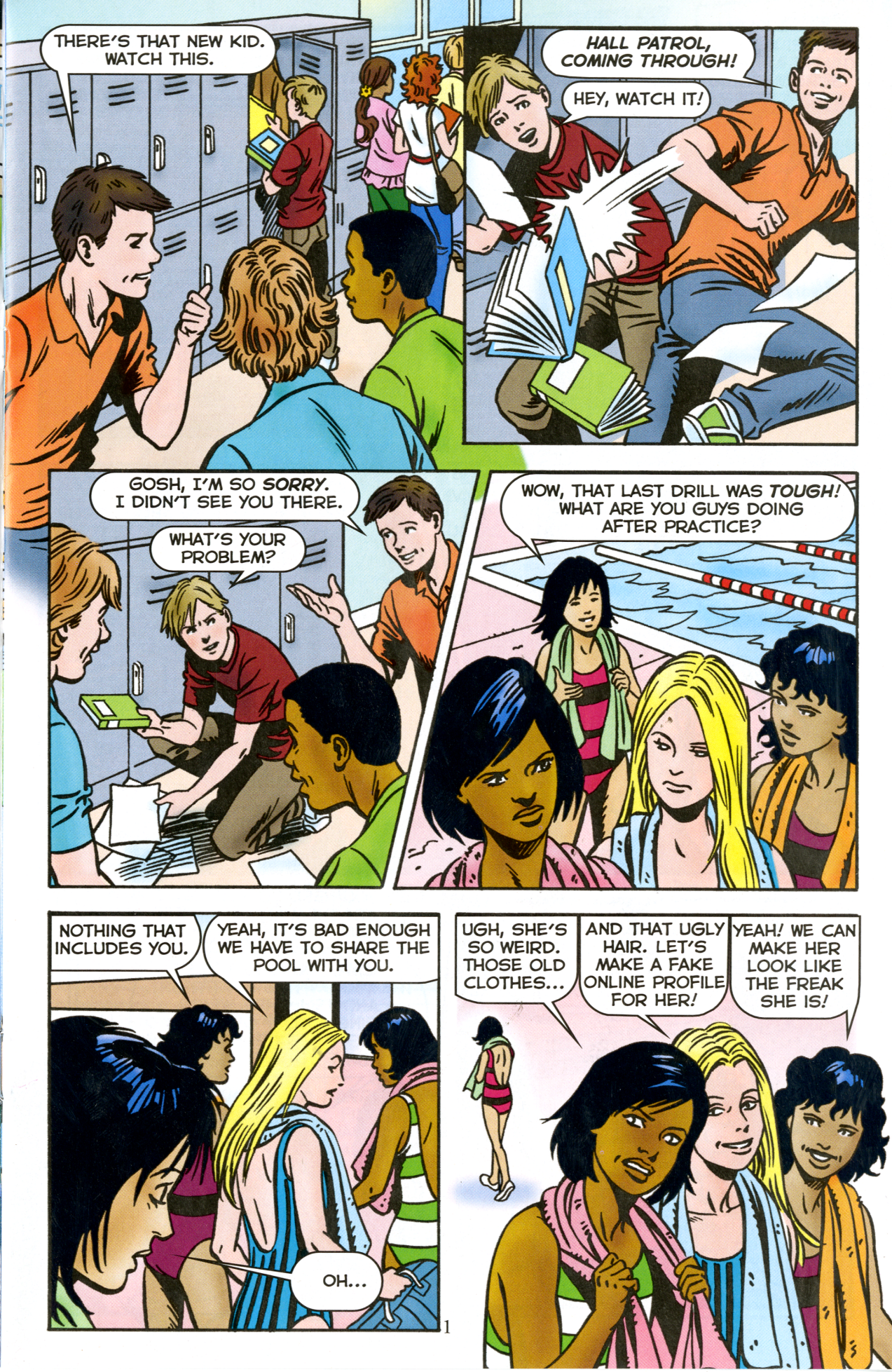
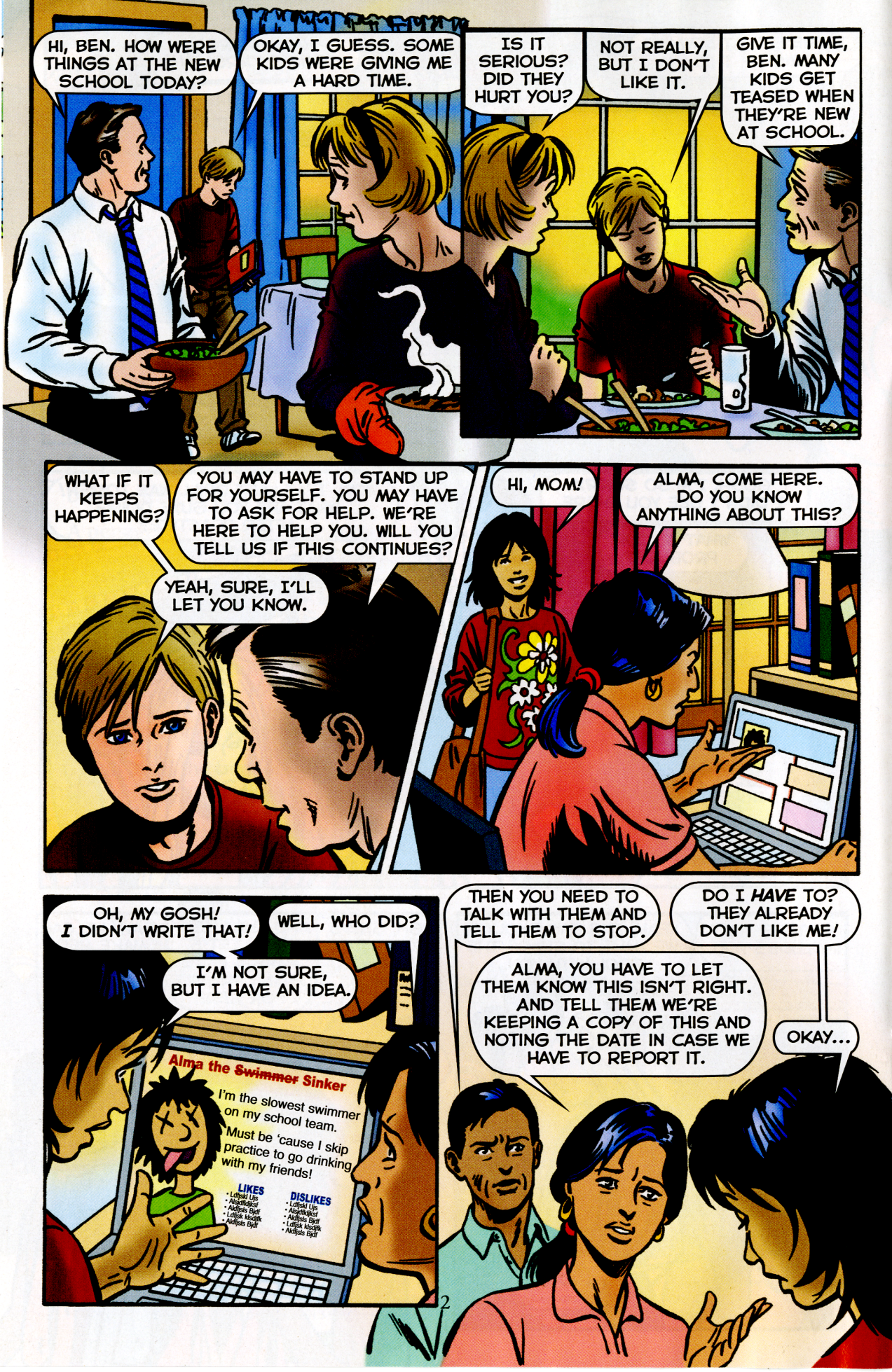
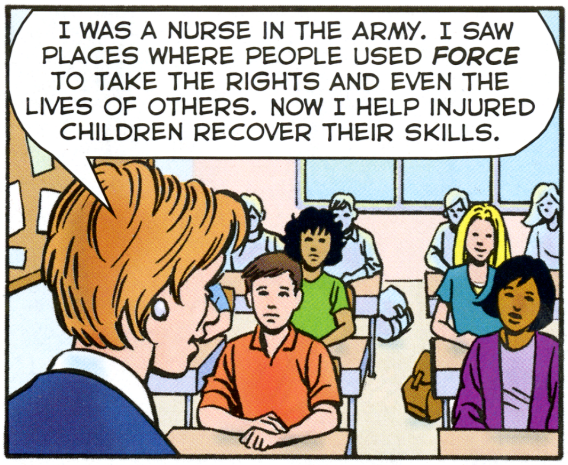
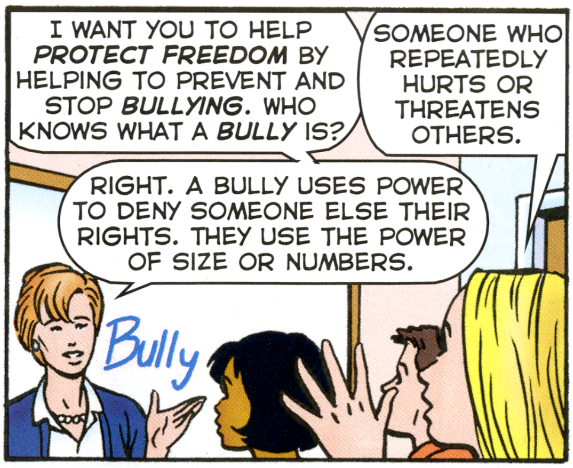
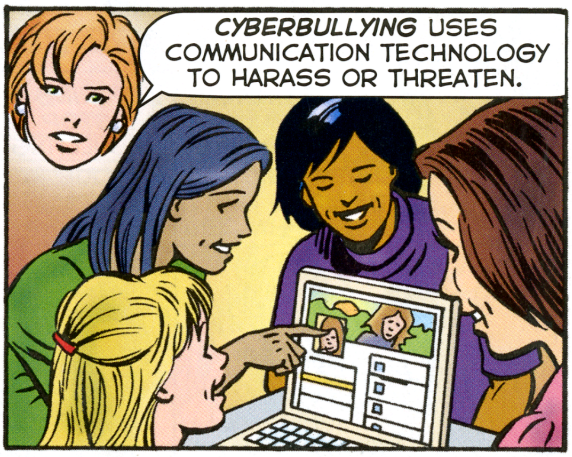

THERE'S THAT NEW KID. WATCH THIS.
HALL PATROL, COMING THROUGH!
HEY, WATCH IT!
GOSH, I'M SO SORRY. I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
WOW, THAT LAST DRILL WAS TOUGH! WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING AFTER PRACTICE?
NOTHING THAT INCLUDES YOU.
YEAH, IT'S BAD ENOUGH WE HAVE TO SHARE THE POOL WITH YOU.
OH...
UGH, SHE'S SO WEIRD. THOSE OLD CLOTHES...
AND THAT UGLY HAIR. LET'S MAKE A FAKE ONLINE PROFILE FOR HER!
YEAH! WE CAN MAKE HER LOOK LIKE THE FREAK SHE IS!

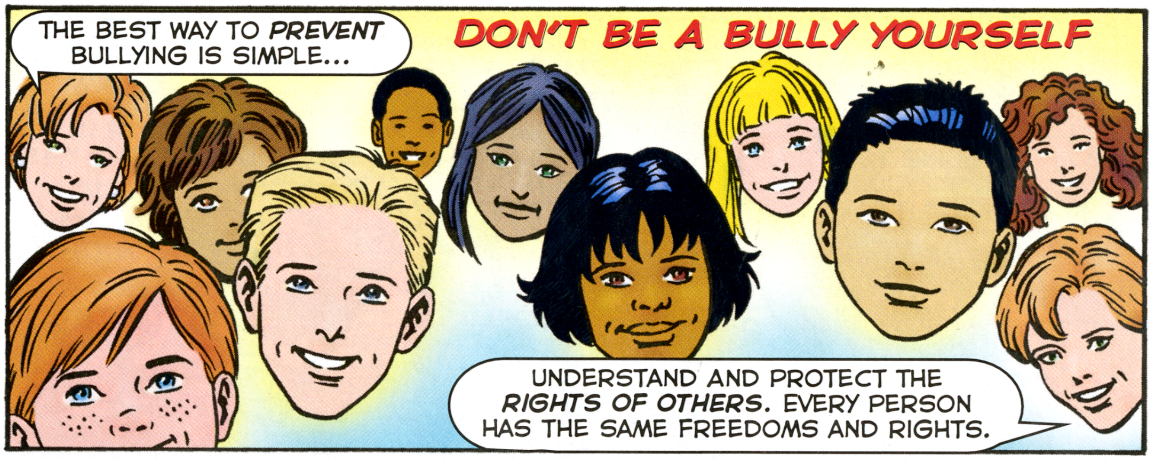

HI, BEN. HOW WERE THINGS AT THE NEW SCHOOL TODAY?
OKAY, I GUESS. SOME KIDS WERE GIVING ME A HARD TIME.
IS IT SERIOUS? DID THEY HURT YOU?
NOT REALLY, BUT I DON'T LIKE IT.
GIVE IT TIME, BEN. MANY KIDS GET TEASED WHEN THEY'RE NEW AT SCHOOL.
WHAT IF IT KEEPS HAPPENING?
YOU MAY HAVE TO STAND UP FOR YOURSELF. YOU MAY HAVE TO ASK FOR HELP. WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU. WILL YOU TELL US IF THIS CONTINUES?
YEAH, SURE, I'LL LET YOU KNOW.
HI, MOM!
ALMA, COME HERE. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?
OH, MY GOSH! I DIDN'T WRITE THAT!
WELL, WHO DID?
I'M NOT SURE, BUT I HAVE AN IDEA.
Alma the Swimmer Sinker
I'm the slowest swimmer on my school team.
Must be 'cause I skip practice to go drinking with my friends!
LIKES
DISLIKES
THEN YOU NEED TO TALK WITH THEM AND TELL THEM TO STOP.
DO I HAVE TO? THEY ALREADY DON'T LIKE ME!
ALMA, YOU HAVE TO LET THEM KNOW THIS ISN'T RIGHT. AND TELL THEM WE'RE KEEPING A COPY OF THIS AND NOTING THE DATE IN CASE WE HAVE TO REPORT IT.
OKAY...

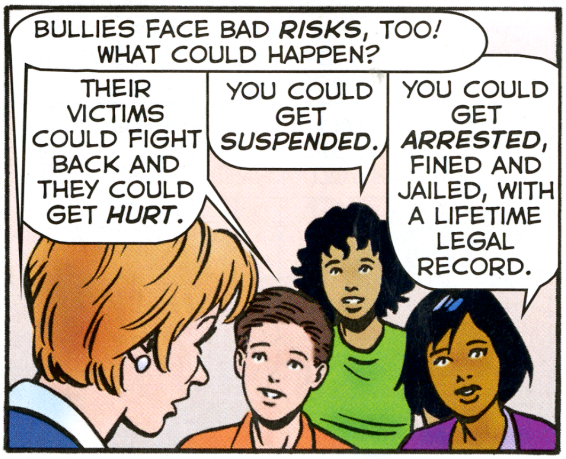

I WAS A NURSE IN THE ARMY. I SAW PLACES WHERE PEOPLE USED *FORCE* TO TAKE THE RIGHTS AND EVEN THE LIVES OF OTHERS. NOW I HELP INJURED CHILDREN RECOVER THEIR SKILLS.

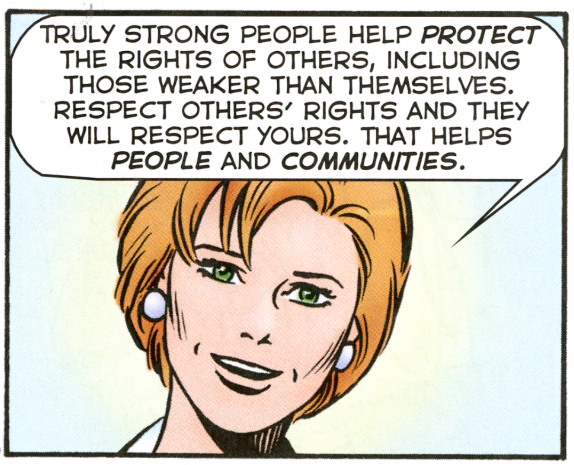

I WANT YOU TO HELP *PROTECT FREEDOM* BY HELPING TO PREVENT AND STOP *BULLYING*. WHO KNOWS WHAT A *BULLY* IS?
SOMEONE WHO REPEATEDLY HURTS OR THREATENS OTHERS.
RIGHT. A BULLY USES POWER TO DENY SOMEONE ELSE THEIR RIGHTS. THEY USE THE POWER OF SIZE OR NUMBERS.
Bully

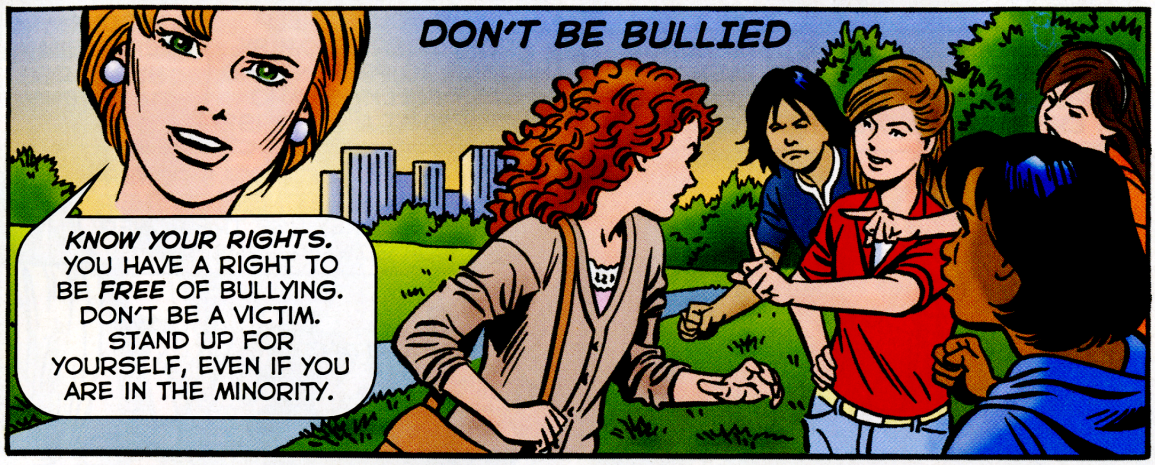
BULLYING CAN BE *VERBAL*, *PHYSICAL*, OR *SOCIAL*.

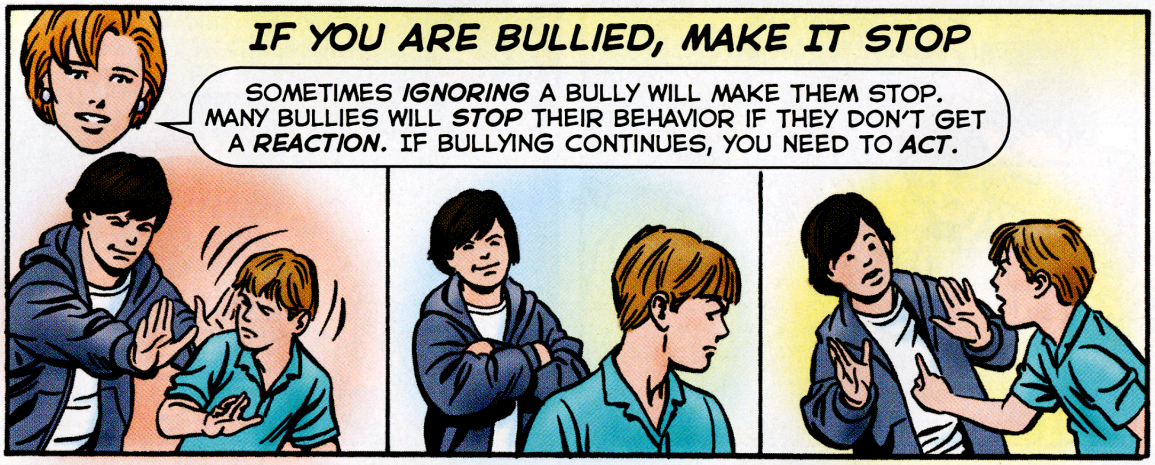

CYBERBULLYING USES COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY TO HARASS OR THREATEN.

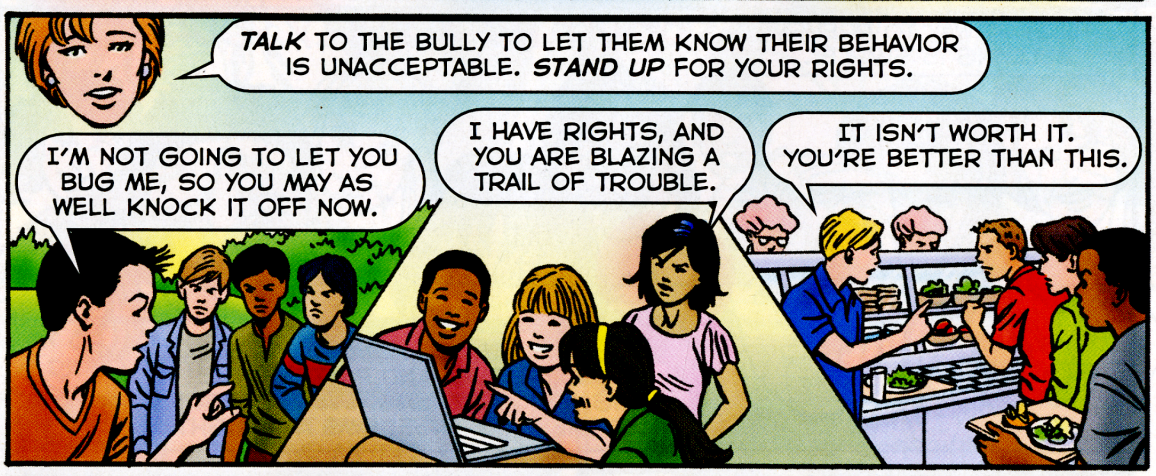

THE BEST WAY TO *PREVENT* BULLYING IS SIMPLE...
DON'T BE A BULLY YOURSELF
UNDERSTAND AND PROTECT THE *RIGHTS OF OTHERS*. EVERY PERSON HAS THE SAME FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS.

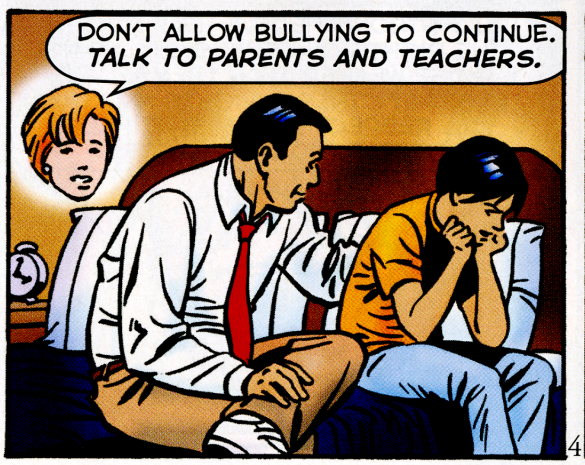

BULLIES FACE BAD *RISKS*, TOO! WHAT COULD HAPPEN?
THEIR VICTIMS COULD FIGHT BACK AND THEY COULD GET *HURT*.
YOU COULD GET *SUSPENDED*.
YOU COULD GET *ARRESTED*, FINED AND JAILED, WITH A LIFETIME LEGAL RECORD.

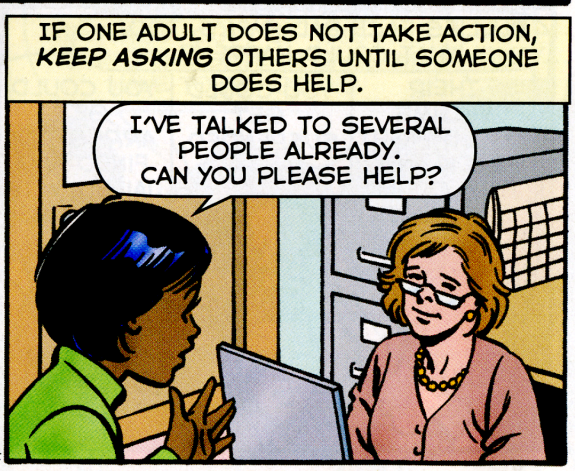

TRULY STRONG PEOPLE HELP *PROTECT* THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS, INCLUDING THOSE WEAKER THAN THEMSELVES. RESPECT OTHERS' RIGHTS AND THEY WILL RESPECT YOURS. THAT HELPS *PEOPLE* AND *COMMUNITIES*.


DON'T BE BULLIED
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE FREE OF BULLYING. DON'T BE A VICTIM. STAND UP FOR YOURSELF, EVEN IF YOU ARE IN THE MINORITY.

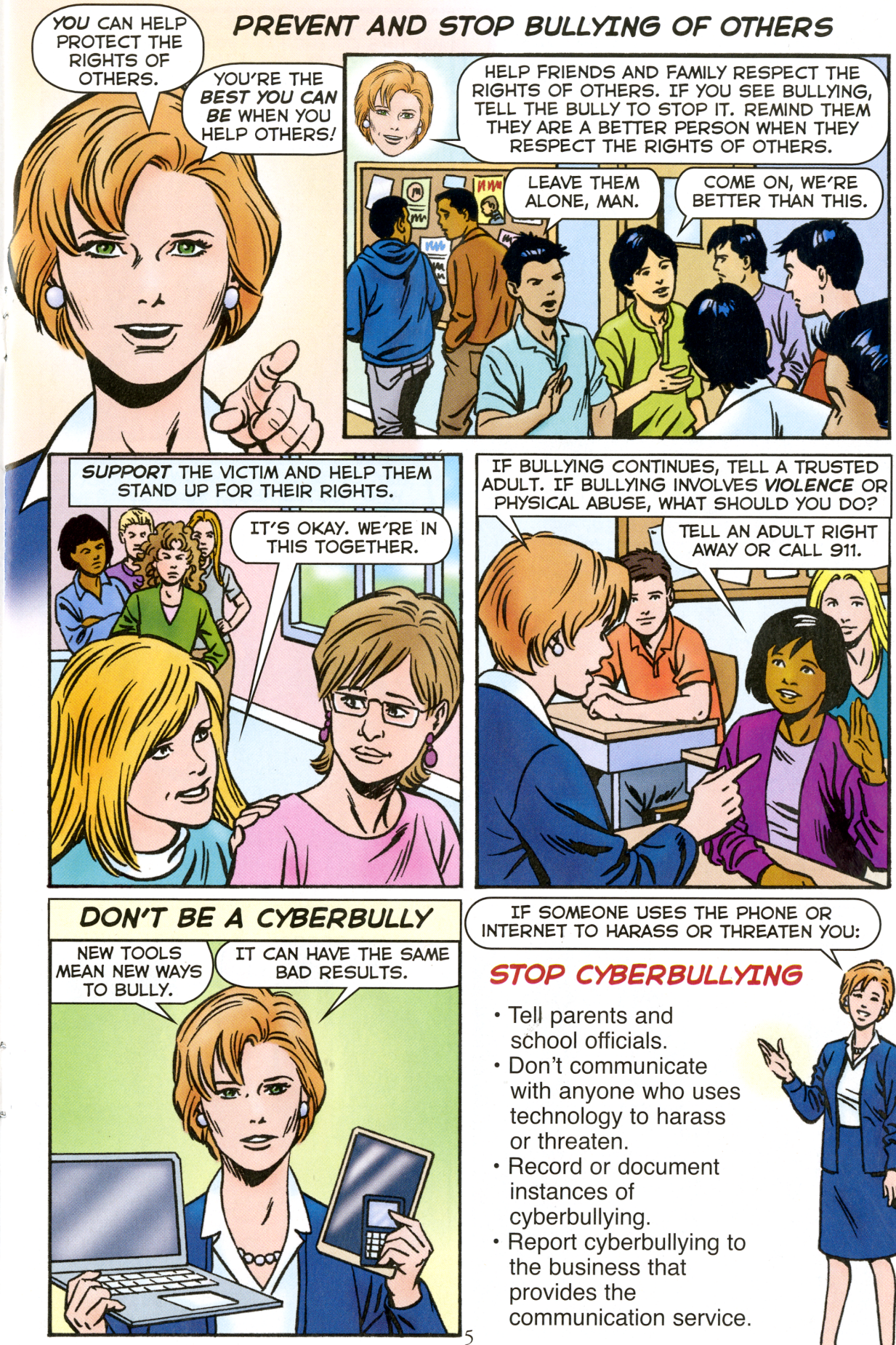

IF YOU ARE BULLIED, MAKE IT STOP
SOMETIMES IGNORING A BULLY WILL MAKE THEM STOP. MANY BULLIES WILL STOP THEIR BEHAVIOR IF THEY DON'T GET A REACTION. IF BULLYING CONTINUES, YOU NEED TO ACT.


TALK TO THE BULLY TO LET THEM KNOW THEIR BEHAVIOR IS UNACCEPTABLE. STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS.
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU BUG ME, SO YOU MAY AS WELL KNOCK IT OFF NOW.
I HAVE RIGHTS, AND YOU ARE BLAZING A TRAIL OF TROUBLE.
IT ISN'T WORTH IT. YOU'RE BETTER THAN THIS.


DON'T ALLOW BULLYING TO CONTINUE. TALK TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS.

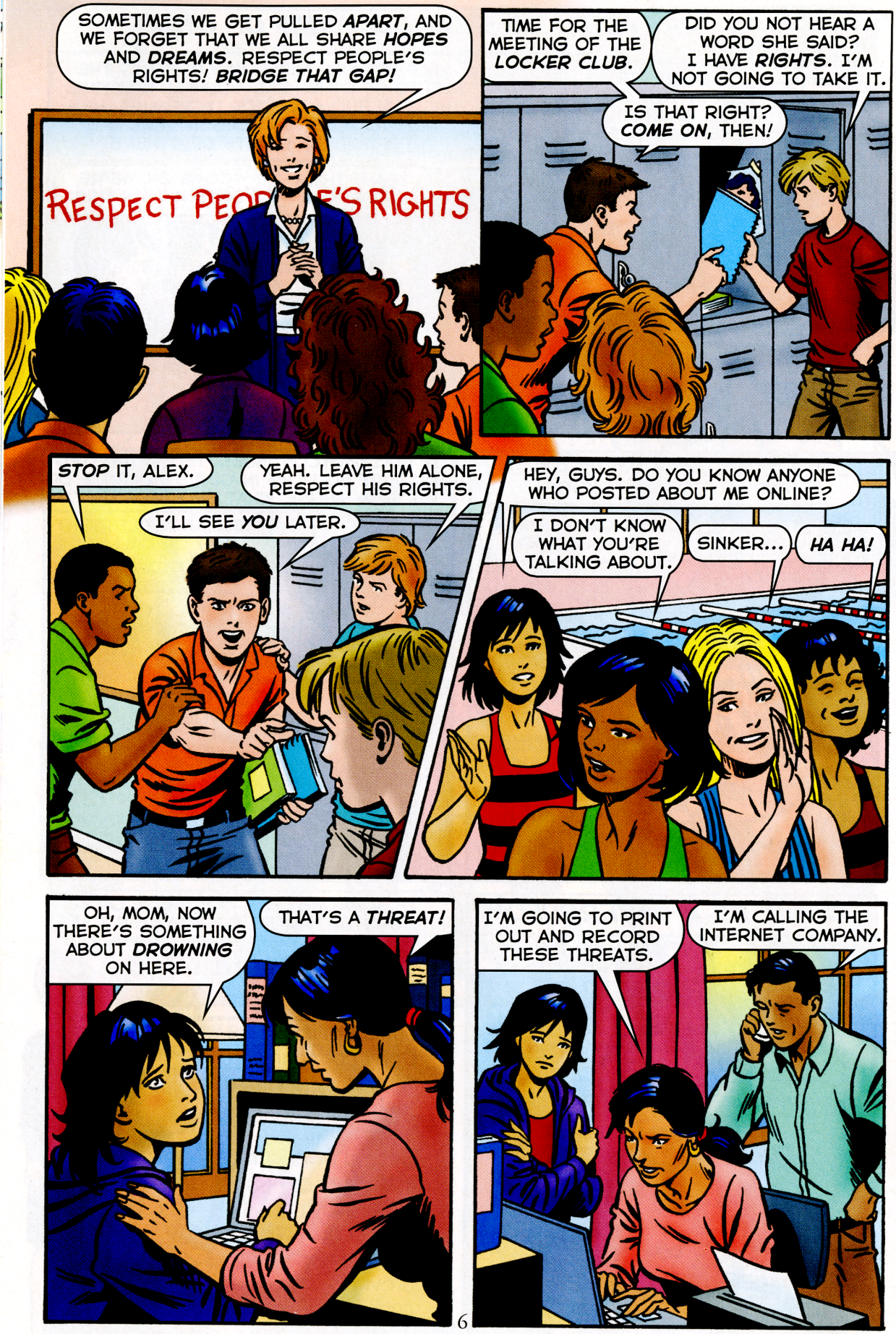

IF ONE ADULT DOES NOT TAKE ACTION, KEEP ASKING OTHERS UNTIL SOMEONE DOES HELP.
I'VE TALKED TO SEVERAL PEOPLE ALREADY. CAN YOU PLEASE HELP?

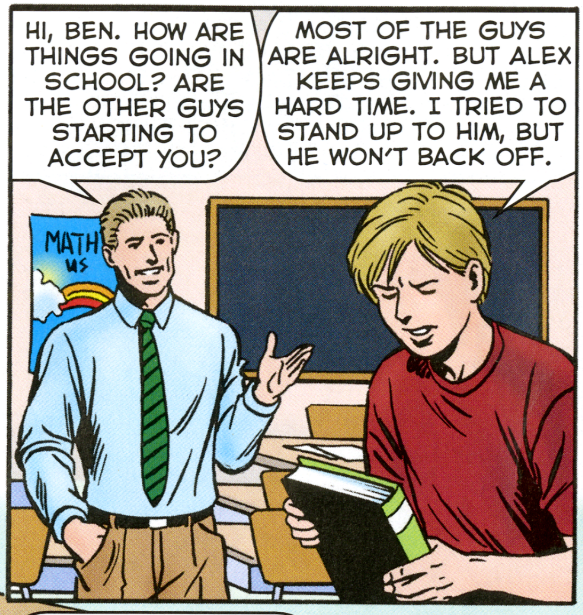
PREVENT AND STOP BULLYING OF OTHERS

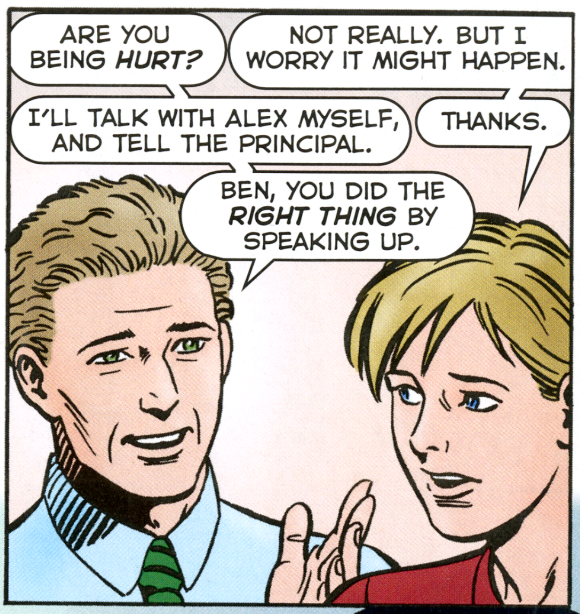


STOP CYBERBULLYING

- Tell parents and school officials.
- Don't communicate with anyone who uses technology to harass or threaten.
- Record or document instances of cyberbullying.
- Report cyberbullying to the business that provides the communication service.

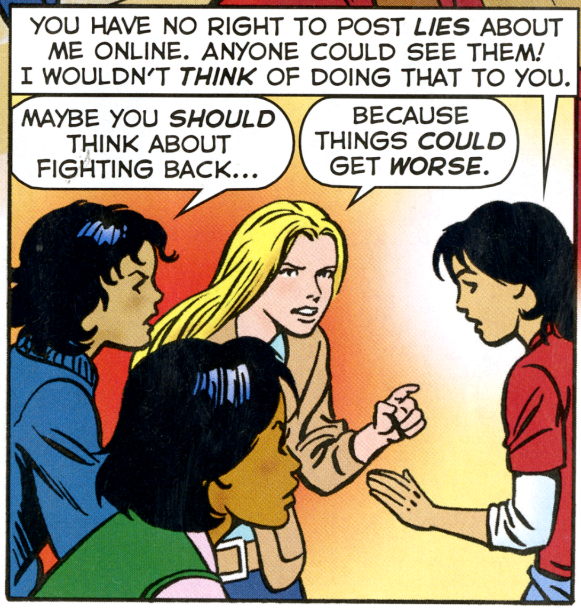

SOMETIMES WE GET PULLED APART, AND WE FORGET THAT WE ALL SHARE HOPES AND DREAMS. RESPECT PEOPLE'S RIGHTS! BRIDGE THAT GAP!
RESPECT PEOPLE'S RIGHTS
TIME FOR THE MEETING OF THE LOCKER CLUB.
DID YOU NOT HEAR A WORD SHE SAID? I HAVE RIGHTS. I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE IT.
IS THAT RIGHT? COME ON, THEN!
STOP IT, ALEX.
YEAH. LEAVE HIM ALONE, RESPECT HIS RIGHTS.
I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
HEY, GUYS. DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO POSTED ABOUT ME ONLINE?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
SINKER...
HA HA!
OH, MOM, NOW THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT DROWNING ON HERE.
THAT'S A THREAT!
I'M GOING TO PRINT OUT AND RECORD THESE THREATS.
I'M CALLING THE INTERNET COMPANY.

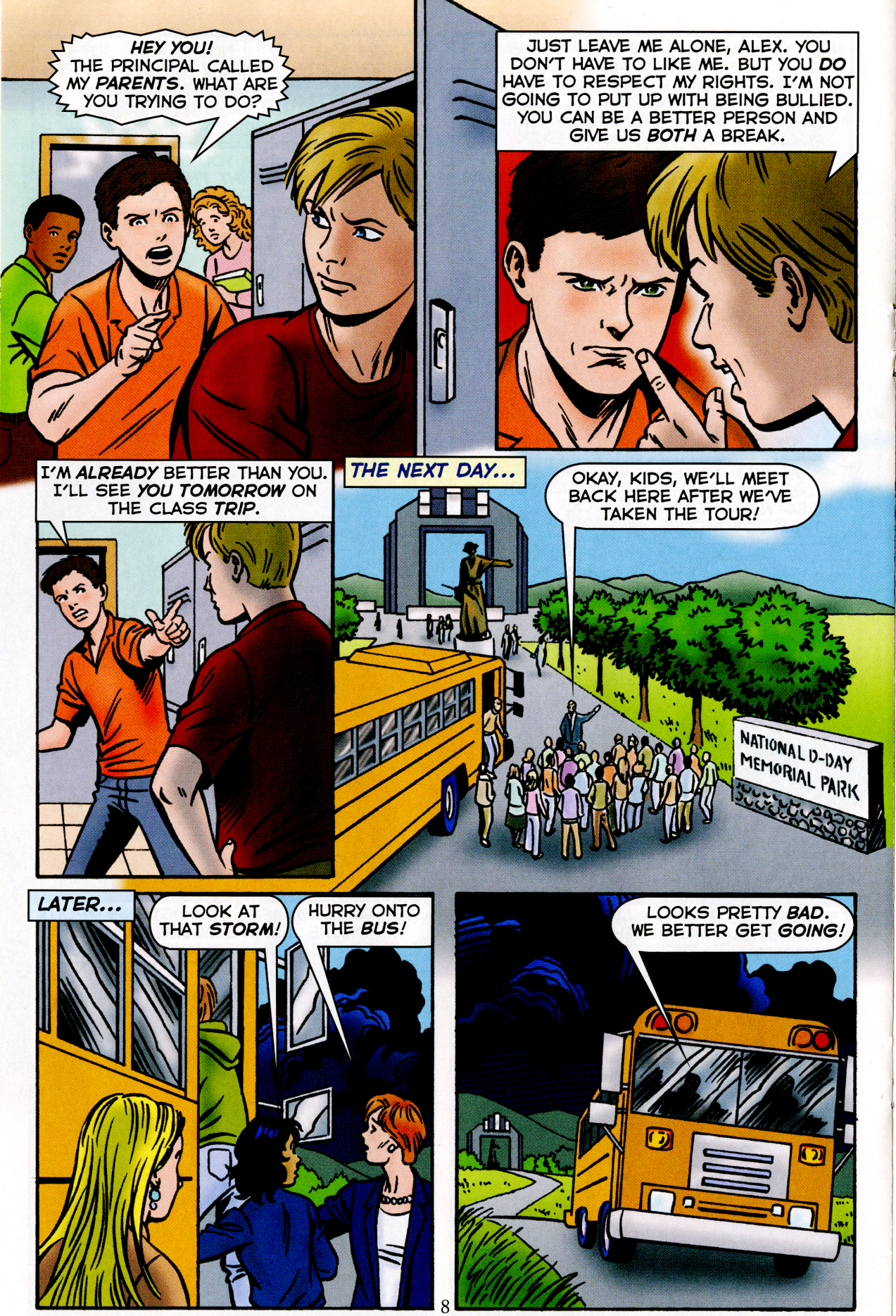

HI, BEN. HOW ARE THINGS GOING IN SCHOOL? ARE THE OTHER GUYS STARTING TO ACCEPT YOU?
MOST OF THE GUYS ARE ALRIGHT. BUT ALEX KEEPS GIVING ME A HARD TIME. I TRIED TO STAND UP TO HIM, BUT HE WON'T BACK OFF.
MATH

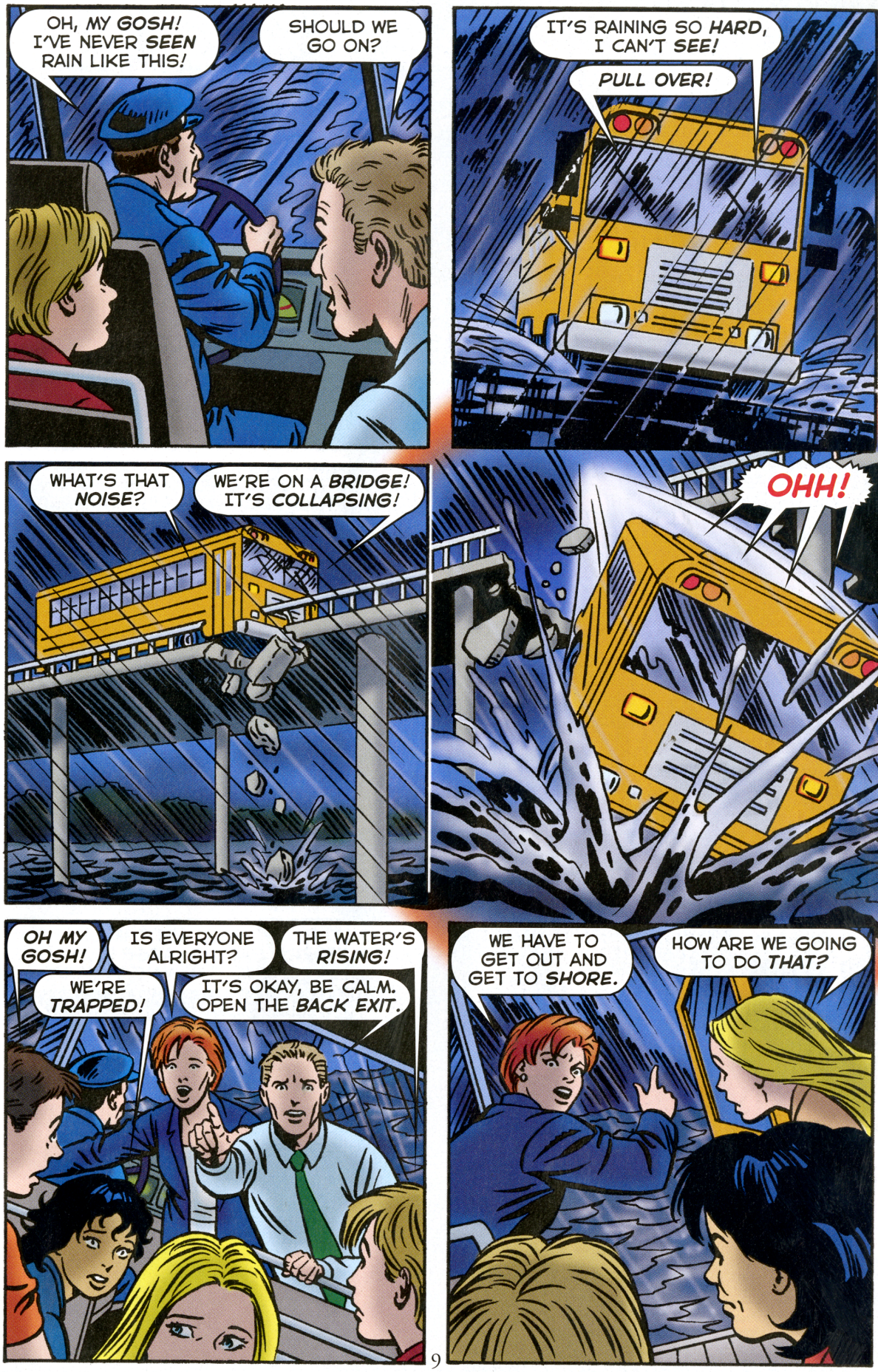

ARE YOU BEING *HURT?*
NOT REALLY. BUT I WORRY IT MIGHT HAPPEN.
I'LL TALK WITH ALEX MYSELF, AND TELL THE PRINCIPAL.
THANKS.
BEN, YOU DID THE *RIGHT THING* BY SPEAKING UP.

REMEMBER TO TELL YOUR PARENTS WE NEED TO MEET WITH THEM TOMORROW.
YES, SIR.
PRINCIPA

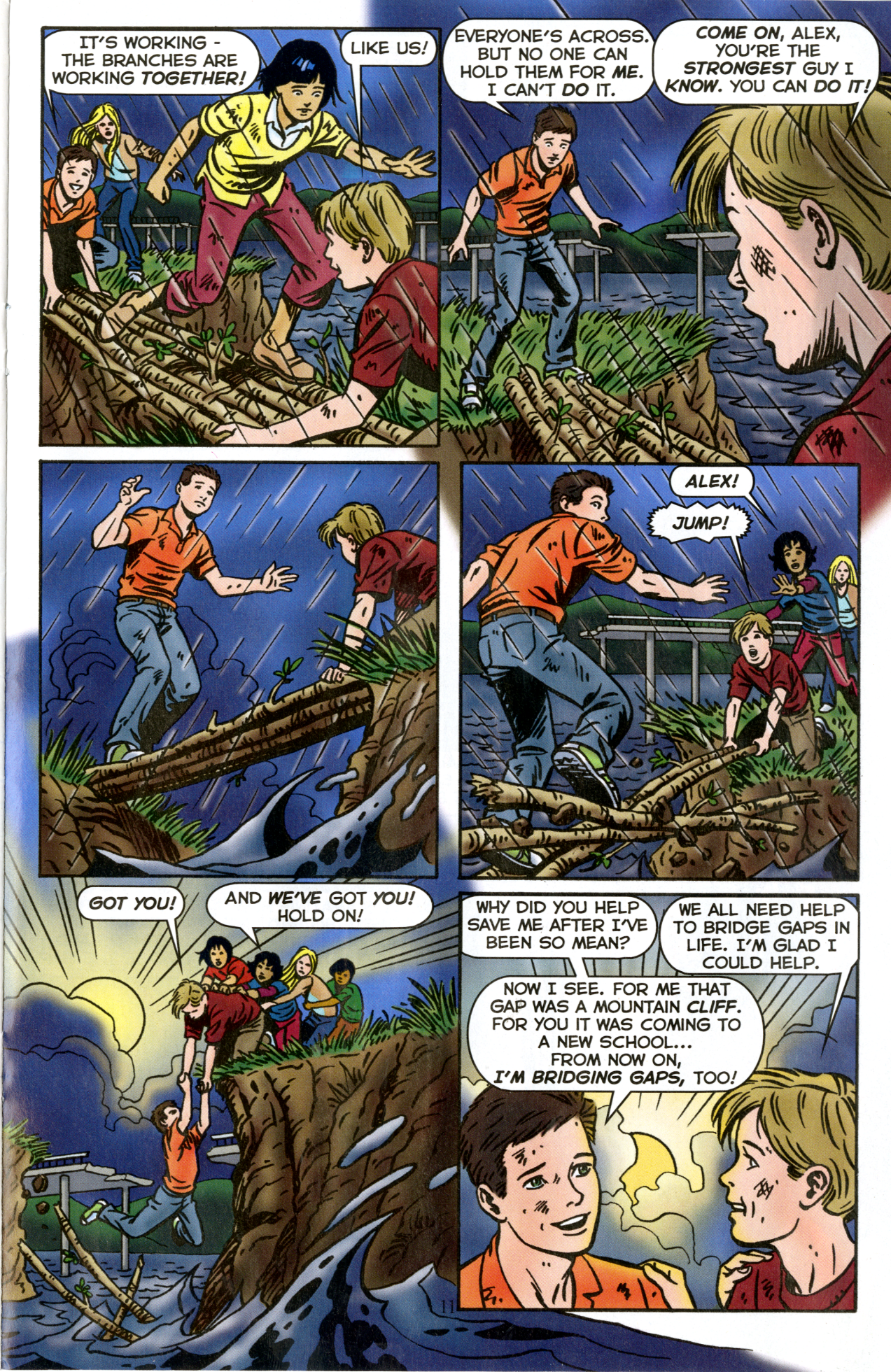
THERE SHE IS!
THANKS A *LOT*, BIG MOUTH.
WE WEREN'T *HURTING* YOU!


YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO POST *LIES* ABOUT ME ONLINE. ANYONE COULD SEE THEM! I WOULDN'T *THINK* OF DOING THAT TO YOU.
MAYBE YOU *SHOULD* THINK ABOUT FIGHTING BACK...
BECAUSE THINGS *COULD* GET *WORSE*.


HEY YOU! THE PRINCIPAL CALLED MY PARENTS. WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE, ALEX. YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIKE ME. BUT YOU DO HAVE TO RESPECT MY RIGHTS. I'M NOT GOING TO PUT UP WITH BEING BULLIED. YOU CAN BE A BETTER PERSON AND GIVE US BOTH A BREAK.
I'M ALREADY BETTER THAN YOU. I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW ON THE CLASS TRIP.
THE NEXT DAY...
OKAY, KIDS, WE'LL MEET BACK HERE AFTER WE'VE TAKEN THE TOUR!
NATIONAL D-DAY MEMORIAL PARK
LATER...
LOOK AT THAT STORM!
HURRY ONTO THE BUS!
LOOKS PRETTY BAD. WE BETTER GET GOING!


OH, MY GOSH! I'VE NEVER SEEN RAIN LIKE THIS!
SHOULD WE GO ON?
IT'S RAINING SO HARD, I CAN'T SEE!
PULL OVER!
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
WE'RE ON A BRIDGE! IT'S COLLAPSING!
OHH!
OH MY GOSH!
IS EVERYONE ALRIGHT?
THE WATER'S RISING!
WE'RE TRAPPED!
IT'S OKAY, BE CALM. OPEN THE BACK EXIT.
WE HAVE TO GET OUT AND GET TO SHORE.
HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO THAT?

COME ON, GUYS! WE'RE THE BEST SWIMMERS. THAT WATER LOOKS SHALLOW, BUT IT'S POWERFUL. MAKE A HUMAN CHAIN, HOLD TIGHT, AND LET'S GO!
ALMOST THERE...
KEEP GOING, ALMA!
YOU CAN DO IT!
WE'RE SAFE! GREAT WORK, KIDS!
NOT YET. THE WATER'S STILL RISING!
LET'S CLIMB THAT HILL.
WE HAVE TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE!
WE CAN'T! OH, NO! WE'RE TRAPPED!
BEN, WAIT!
NOW THE GAP'S WIDER!
ALEX, GET THE GUYS TO GATHER LARGE BRANCHES. WE CAN MAKE A BRIDGE.

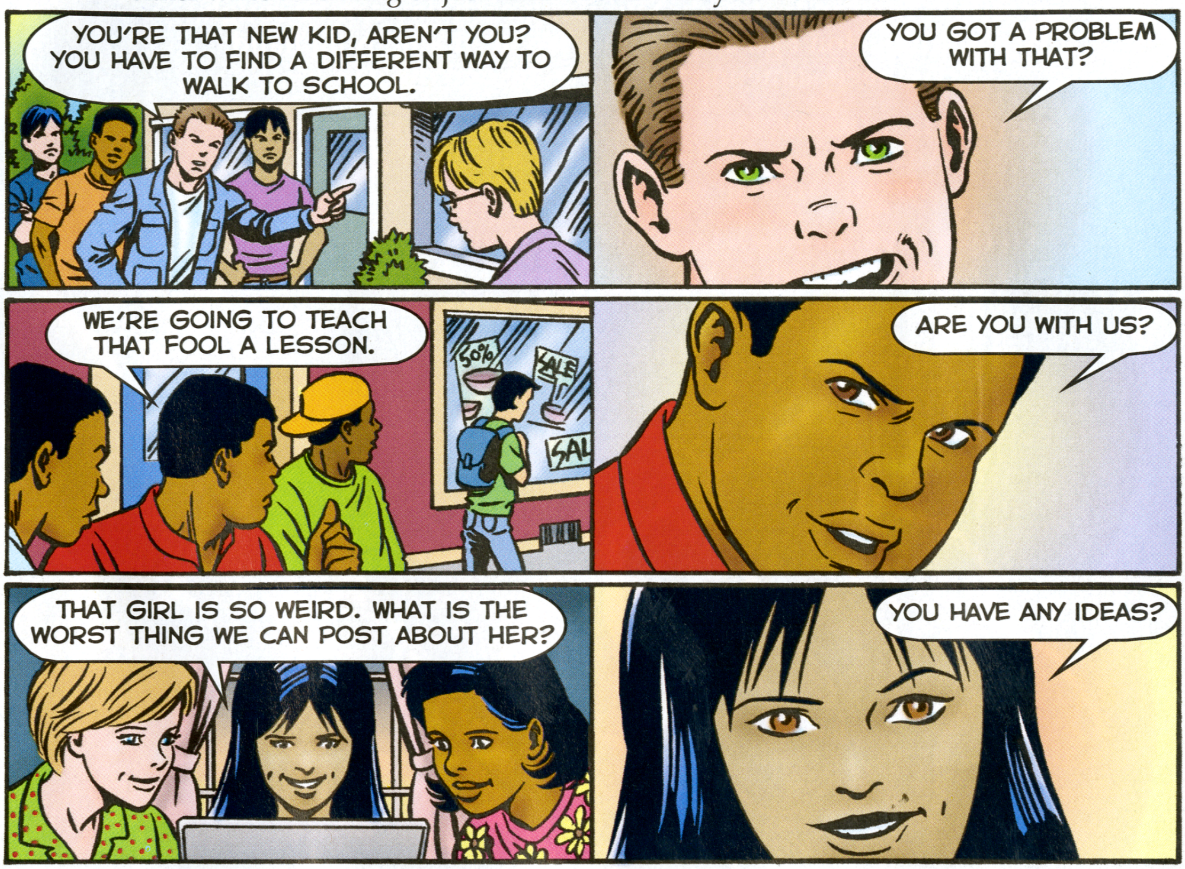

IT'S WORKING - THE BRANCHES ARE WORKING TOGETHER!
LIKE US!
EVERYONE'S ACROSS. BUT NO ONE CAN HOLD THEM FOR ME. I CAN'T DO IT.
COME ON, ALEX, YOU'RE THE STRONGEST GUY I KNOW. YOU CAN DO IT!
ALEX!
JUMP!
GOT YOU!
AND WE'VE GOT YOU! HOLD ON!
WHY DID YOU HELP SAVE ME AFTER I'VE BEEN SO MEAN?
WE ALL NEED HELP TO BRIDGE GAPS IN LIFE. I'M GLAD I COULD HELP.
NOW I SEE. FOR ME THAT GAP WAS A MOUNTAIN CLIFF. FOR YOU IT WAS COMING TO A NEW SCHOOL... FROM NOW ON, I'M BRIDGING GAPS, TOO!

THIS POST IS LOOKING GREAT!
MAKE SURE YOU DESCRIBE HOW ALMA HELPED US GET ACROSS THE WATER.
GIRLS? YOUR PARENTS ARE HERE!
HI, MOM AND DAD! WE WANT TO GET THIS ONLINE BEFORE THE NEWSPAPER!
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALRIGHT!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO ALMA.
THE BEST SWIMMER IN SCHOOL!
THIS IS BEN. HE'S NEW HERE. HE'S THE ONE WHO SAVED MY LIFE!
AFTER ALEX HELPED SAVE EVERYONE ELSE!
IT'S AMAZING HOW SOMETHING BAD LIKE AN ACCIDENT CAN BRING OUT SO MUCH GOOD IN PEOPLE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. AMAZING THINGS HAPPEN WHEN WE HONOR THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS AND BRIDGE THE GAP.

IT'S UP TO YOU!

You may have to deal with a bully at some time in your life. **Many** people do! Your actions can help **prevent** or **stop** bullying. Knowing what to do can help prepare you.

Read the short stories below. The ending is up to you! How would you react in each case? You can either write an ending or just think about what you would do.



Here is a list of ways to deal with bullies. Which of these strategies could help in each of the short stories above? Can you think of other ways?

TIPS FOR STOPPING BULLY TROUBLE

A. Know your rights. You have a right to be free from physical and emotional bullying. Don't be a victim. Stand up for your rights.

B. Talk with other people who might be acting like bullies. Try to find common ground. Point out that you have a right to be free from bullying.

C. If you are not being harmed by mean talk, consider ignoring it. Bullies want a response. If they don't get one, they often stop.

D. If you are being bullied, talk with parents. Ask for help to deal with a bully problem.

E. If you are bullied at school, talk with teachers. Ask for their help and advice.

F. If you are attacked or afraid of physical harm, call the police.

G. If you are bullied online, ask a parent or teacher to report it to the communication company.

H. If you have friends who act like bullies, talk with them and ask them to stop. Point out that everyone has a right to live free.

I. Remind friends who may be acting like bullies that they can face legal problems, including fines and jail time.

J. If you think a friend is going to harm someone, try to stop them. If they continue, leave and call the police.

K. Encourage friends who may act like bullies to stop. Tell them they are better than that.

Discuss these stories with your friends and family. Have any of you faced bully challenges in your own lives? How did you deal with them?

REMEMBER, IT'S UP TO YOU TO PREVENT AND STOP BULLYING!

BRIDGE THE GAP

Sometimes life can be tough. Surviving each day can be rough.
When things don't go as planned, we need a helping hand.
We need someone to help us bridge the gap.

Everyone is different you can see. Color, size, and personality.
We all deserve to live. We all can surely give.
We all can help each other bridge the gap.

Live, be free, and be happy! Help each other face the day.
You never know when you might need some helping, too.
Someone will reach and help you

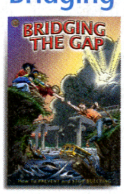
Bridge the Gap!

- Don't Be A Bully
- Prevent Bullying
- Stop Bullying

SHARE WHAT MAKES AMERICA GREAT!

Help teach the good news about America and American values! Fun reading with important lessons!

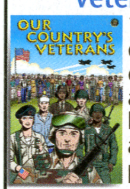
Bridging The Gap



16-page educational comic book to prevent and stop bullying.

Special pricing for packs of 100.

Our Country's Veterans



16-page educational comic book about our brave veterans and how they protect America.

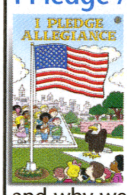
Special pricing for packs of 100.

Our Country's Flag

20-page educational comic about the meaning, history, and proper treatment of the United States Flag.

Special pricing for packs of 100.

I Pledge Allegiance



16-page educational comic book on the meaning of the Pledge Of Allegiance and why we say it.

Special pricing for packs of 100.

Light Of Liberty

20-page educational comic about the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and how to be a good citizen.

Special pricing for packs of 100.

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